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Environment and sustainable development: further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.20

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedures of the General Assembly

I. Requests contained in the draft resolution

1. Under the terms of paragraphs 5, 7, 9, and 12 of draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.20, the General Assembly would:

(a) Decide to convene an international meeting in 2004, including a summit segment, to comprehensively review the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, as called for in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and would welcome the offer by the Government of Mauritius to host the meeting;

(b) Further decide to convene regional preparatory meetings of small island developing States in the African, Caribbean and Pacific regions, as well as an interregional preparatory meeting for all small island developing States, to undertake the review of the Programme of Action at the national, subregional and regional levels and to identify and develop small island developing States-specific inputs into the review, as referred to in subparagraph (a) above;

(c) Decide that the Commission on Sustainable Development shall act as the preparatory committee for the international meeting referred to in subparagraph (a)

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above, and shall undertake the comprehensive review of the Programme of Action and consider and finalize the plan for its implementation;

(d) Call for the immediate strengthening of the Small Island Developing States Unit to assist with the preparation of the comprehensive review of the Programme of Action.

II. Activities by which the proposed requests would be carried out

2. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs would assume primary responsibility for carrying out the activities required to implement the draft resolution.

3. Should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, the programme of work described under subprogramme 4, Sustainable development, of section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 would be modified as follows:

Under paragraph 9.69, add the words "(vii) Three regional and one interregional meetings of small island developing States to undertake the review of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of the Small Island Developing States".

4. On the basis of past experience in holding other United Nations conferences and meetings, it is assumed that the international meeting would be convened for a period of seven days, with four meetings per day or a total of 28 meetings. Interpretation would be provided in the six official languages of the General Assembly. Documentation to be processed in the six languages would be estimated at 160 pages of pre-session, 80 pages of in-session and 32 pages of post-session documents. In accordance with the headquarters principle embodied in General Assembly resolution 40/243, the event itself should be held in New York. Under the terms of paragraph 5 of that resolution, however, United Nations bodies may hold meetings away from their established headquarters on the understanding that any additional cost, such as for travel of staff, freight, communications and planning missions, will be borne by the host Government.

5. The timing, venues and modalities of the regional preparatory meetings in the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific regions, as well as of the interregional preparatory meeting for all small island developing States, would be determined in consultation with interested Member States.

6. Assuming that the requirements for any meetings of the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee for the international meeting, which might need to be convened in 2003, would be met from the mandated entitlements of the Commission in 2003, no additional resources would be required for 2003.

7. The conference-servicing requirements related to the preparatory process and for the international meeting in 2004 would be requested in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005. On the basis of past experience in holding other United Nations conferences and meetings, it is assumed that the international meeting would be convened for a period of seven days, with

four meetings per day or a total of 28 meetings. Interpretation will be provided in the six official languages of the General Assembly. Documentation anticipated to be processed in the six languages is estimated at 160 pages of pre-session, 80 pages of in-session and 32 pages of post-session documents. In accordance with the headquarters principle embodied in General Assembly resolution 40/243, the event itself should be held in New York. Under the terms of paragraph 5 of that resolution, however, United Nations bodies may hold meetings away from their established headquarters on the understanding that any additional cost, such as for travel of staff, freight, communications and planning missions, will be borne by the host Government.

8. In order to ensure adequate preparation for the regional and interregional meetings, it is considered that it would be necessary to secure, in 2003, the services of consultants/experts to provide specialized expertise that is not available in the Secretariat to assist in the preparation of analytical reports, reviews and studies on a range of issues critical to the sustainable development of small island developing States.

III. Additional requirements at full costs

9. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.20, the additional resources estimated at full costs for 2003 would be as follows:

	United States dollars
Section 9, Economic and social affairs	
Twenty work months of consultancy to provide specialized expertise that is not available in the Secretariat to assist in the preparation of analytical reports, technical papers, reviews and studies on sustainable development of small island developing States related to climate change, sustainable tourism, vulnerability issues, trade, telecommunications, transportation and waste management matters.	100 000
Three regional and one interregional expert group meetings to assist in the review of issues related to the implementation of the Programme of Action and other issues of importance to small island developing States. For the three regional meetings for each of the main groups of small island developing States, the United Nations would provide for 12 experts per meeting each for the Pacific and Caribbean regions, 4 experts for the Africa region and 17 experts for the interregional meeting.	167 000
Total section 9	**267 000**

10. It is the intention of the Secretary-General to make provision for the international meeting and for the meetings of the Commission on Sustainable Development, acting as preparatory committee, in the context of his proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005. The conference-servicing

requirements, at full cost, for the international meeting and the meetings of the Commission in 2004 are currently estimated at $573,300 and $513,600, respectively.

IV. Potential for absorption during the biennium 2002-2003

11. It is recalled that the appropriations for the 2002-2003 biennium contain a provision for financing the participation of members of the Commission on Sustainable Development to attend one regular session and two intersessional sessions of the Commission per year. It is the understanding of the Secretariat that the General Assembly would be requesting the Economic and Social Council to ensure that the Commission holds one organizational session in January 2003 and one session in April/May 2003. On the assumption that the Council would take a decision as requested by the General Assembly, the Commission would not hold the two intersessional sessions which were originally scheduled to be held in 2003. The resources which would be released by the cancellation of those two intersessional sessions of the Commission are estimated at $267,000. It is proposed to use those resources to finance the preparatory activities to be carried out.

V. Recommendation

12. **Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.20, it is proposed that the estimated requirements of $267,000 for the preparatory process in 2003 be met through the use of resources appropriated for the Commission on Sustainable Development under section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.**